

GTA agreement with Microsoft reduces software costs

GTA has negotiated an enterprise agreement with Microsoft that reduces the cost to purchase and support popular business software programs by at least 50 percent when compared to other discount prices. The agreement covers

- MS Office, including Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access and Outlook
- MS operating system and
- connection licenses to other Microsoft products.

The negotiated price of \$240.50 per computer is valid for three years after enrollment. Security enhancements and other features provided by Microsoft are included at no additional cost.

A separate Microsoft Select Agreement offers volume discounts on additional products that are purchased individually. They include

- Windows 2000 server, NT or XP server
- Exchange 2000 message server, NT or XP server and
- Project, Visio and developmental software.

For more information about the agreements, contact GTA's Lisa Mehalko at 404-463-4252.

To enroll in the agreements, contact Software Spectrum at 404-892-1237.

More choices, greater buying power for PC purchases

Local governments can choose from among three highly competitive

sources when it comes time to purchase computers and related products: the General Services Administration's (GSA) Schedule 70, the Western States Contracting Alliance (WSCA) and GTA-negotiated contracts.

The GSA Schedule 70 is a catalog of vendor contracts originally developed for the exclusive use of federal agencies. Congress voted to allow state and local governments to use federal IT contracts beginning in May 2003.

Through WSCA, local governments can combine their purchasing power with governments in more than 36 other states to obtain big savings on new PCs.

To provide Georgia governments with even more choices, GTA negotiates additional contracts for a variety of specialized IT products and services.

For more information, including price lists, procedures for using enterprise contracts and links to hardware contracts, visit GTA's Web site at www.gta.georgia.gov/procurement. Click on Enterprise Contracts, then look under Hardware Contracts.

Making it easy to find temporary IT professionals

Now it's quick and easy for local governments to find temporary professionals to supplement their information technology staffs. Through a contract with GTA, Venturi Partners operates a Web site where local government agencies can simply

submit the skills, prior experience and related requirements they're looking for in an IT professional. Venturi Partners compares the requirements with a pool of ready candidates and submits at least three for the agency's consideration within 72 hours. All candidates are screened to verify education, work history and references before adding them to the pool.

An automated management system helps to reduce administrative costs in other ways. Timesheets can be reviewed and approved online, and agencies receive only one itemized monthly bill for all temporary IT workers. Payment options include electronic funds transfer.

The service saved state and local agencies more than \$3.5 million in its first 15 months of operation.

For more information, visit www.gtasms.com.

Specialized services contract helps agencies with tech projects

The Specialized Consulting Services contract negotiated by GTA makes it easier and faster for local government agencies to solicit proposals from contractors in five disciplines.

Agencies no longer need to conduct costly, time-consuming searches for qualified contractors when seeking assistance with technology projects in the areas of

- budgeting
- planning
- business process review and re-engineering
- independent verification and validation
- project management.

Companies on the list of certified contractors have agreed to specific performance standards, and agencies

may impose additional requirements. There are a total of 125 contractor listings in all five disciplines.

When using the contract, agencies are required to submit a statement of need to every contractor in the specific discipline. This provides each certified contractor with an equal opportunity to compete for government business, although contractors are not required to respond to every statement of need they receive. Agencies are also required to provide GTA with an evaluation of the contractor's performance.

For more information, visit GTA's Web site at www.gta.georgia.gov/procurement. Click on Enterprise Contracts, look for Service Contracts, then Specialized Consulting Services.